

The Gift of Hospitality

Hospitality: the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers

The Virtue of Hospitality: "being mindful that those who cherish hospitality receive Christ in the person of their guests." (Council of Trent, 1563 AD)



SERVANT OF GOD DOROTHY DAY

Founded Houses of Hospitality, giving food and shelter to anyone who needed it.



BLESSED SOLANUS CASEY

Used his simple gifts to welcome those who came to his door and listened to the needs of others.



ST. MEINRAD

Patron Saint of Hospitality. Welcomed those who came to his hovel, including caring for thieves who would then kill him.

Why should we be ministers of Hospitality?

- the call to welcome the stranger
- make others feel at home
- "Offer an open and hospitable space where strangers can cast off their strangeness." Theologian Henri Nouwen
- "Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy." Trappist Monk Thomas Merton

Components of Hospitality

Preparation: What you do before anyone arrives

- Work out a welcoming strategy and understand your role in welcoming.
- Think about the other person: can they find your event? If you were a stranger, would you find this welcoming? Would a stranger know how to use the space?

Welcome: What to do when someone walks through the door

- Everyone welcomes!
- Introduce yourself.
- Explain how the space works
- Have something ready for them to do
- If someone is alone and you are not doing a task, engage, or if you are doing a task, ask them to help

Connect and Include

Connect

- Find out about the other
- Listen
- Make connections
- Introduce them to others
- Affirm them

Include

- Proximity
- Include new folks in with what you are doing
- Limit “inside jokes”

Follow Up: Send off and follow up

- Thank them for coming
- Remind them of what's coming up
- Connect with them between events
- If you see them later, say “Hi!”

YOUR TURN

THINK OF TYPICAL EVENTS AT YOUR PARISHES. AS A GROUP, PICK ONE.

CREATE A HOSPITALITY PLAN.
Remember: Think of what you are going to do before, during, and after the event.

PRESENT TO THE GROUP

Example Event:

Hospitality Plan:

Preparation

Welcome

Connect and Include

Follow Up

HOMEWORK

SHARE THIS PROCESS WITH YOUR YOUTH MINISTER, CAMPUS MINISTER, OR DIRECTOR OF A MINISTRY YOU ARE PART OF.

Ask if you can create a hospitality plan for an upcoming event.